

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 10 and 19, as indicated below. Please cancel Claim 4 without prejudice of disclaimer. The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus that has multiple having a plurality of print control programs modules, including first and second print control modules, for performing processing corresponding to printer functions, each print control module supporting a plurality of types of printers, and further having a management table that contains identification information of the first print control module, version information of the first print control module, and printer type information on printers supported by the first print control module, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a first obtaining unit configured to obtain, from a first print control module, version information on a version of the first print control module and printer type information on a printer type supported by the first print control module;

a second an obtaining unit configured to obtain, from [[a]] the second print control module, version information on a version of the second print control module and printer type information on a printer type printers supported by the second print control module;

a recording an updating unit configured to update the management table by recording identification information of the second print control module, and the version information and the printer type information obtained by said obtaining unit in the management

table, if at least one printer type of the printer type information for the second print control module obtained by said obtaining unit is identical to at least one printer type of the printer type information for the first print control module contained in the management table and if the version information of the second print control module obtained by said obtaining unit is newer than the version information of the first print control module contained in the management table;
, if the printer type information obtained by said first and second obtaining units are identical to each other, record the version information of the first print control module in correspondence with the printer type information as correspondence information if the version of the first print control module is newer than the version of the second print control module, and record the version information of the second print control module in correspondence with the printer type information as correspondence information if the version of the second print control module is newer than the version of the first print control module;

a recognition unit configured to recognize printer type information on a printer type of a certain printer;

a selection unit configured to automatically select the version information recorded one of the first and second print control modules in correspondence with the printer type information recognized by said recognition unit by referring to the management table updated by said updating unit correspondence information recorded by said recording unit; and

an execution unit configured to execute one of the first and second the print control modules for the version information module selected by said selection unit.

2. - 5. (cancelled).

6. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a setting unit configured to set the print control module for the version information selected by said selection unit such that the print control module can control the printer.

7. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 6, further comprising a control unit configured to inhibit activation of a print control module for the version information that is not selected by said selection unit.

8. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 6, further comprising:

an identification unit configured to identify a first control program that controls the printer not based on a selection result by said selection unit and a second control program that controls the printer based on a result by said selection unit; and

an activation control unit configured to perform control such that the first control program is activated when said identification unit recognizes that the first control program exists.

9. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said setting unit recognizes that the print control module can control a printer among printers supported by the print control module when a database file exists that stores control conditions and control variables for the printer.

10. (currently amended) A control method for controlling an information processing apparatus that has multiple having a plurality of print control programs modules, including first and second print control modules, for performing image processing and control processing corresponding to printer functions, each print control module supporting a plurality of types of printers, and further having a management table that contains identification information of the first print control module, version information of the first print control module, and printer type information on printers supported by the first print control module. said control method comprising:

a first obtaining step of obtaining, from a first print control module, version information on a version of the first print control module and printer type information on a printer type supported by the first print control module;

a second an obtaining step of obtaining, from [[a]] the second print control module, version information on a version of the second print control module and printer type information on a printer type printers supported by the second print control module;

a recording an updating step of, updating the management table by recording identification information of the second print control module, and the version information and the printer type information obtained by said obtaining step in the management table, if at least one printer type of the printer type information for the second print control module obtained by said obtaining step is identical to at least one printer type of the printer type information for the first print control module contained in the management table and if the version information of the second print control module obtained by said obtaining step is newer than the version information of the first print control module contained in the management table; if the printer type information obtained by said first and second obtaining steps are identical to each other,

recording the version information of the first print control module in correspondence with the printer type information as correspondence information if the version of the first print control module is newer than the version of the second print control module, and recording the version information of the second print control module in correspondence with the printer type information as correspondence information if the version of the second print control module is newer than the version of the first print control module;

a recognition step of recognizing printer type information on a printer type of a certain printer;

a selection step of automatically selecting the version information recorded one of the first and second print control modules in correspondence with the printer type information recognized by said recognition step by referring to the management table updated by said updating step correspondence information recorded by said recording step; and

an execution step of executing one of the first and second the print control modules for the version information module selected by said selection step.

11. and 12. (cancelled).

13. (previously presented) The control method according to Claim 10, wherein said recording step records the correspondence information in a table format, including the printer type information, the version information and identification information for the print control module.

14. (cancelled).

15. (previously presented) The control method according to Claim 10, further comprising a setting step of setting the print control module for the version information selected in said selection step such that the print control module can control the printer.
16. (previously presented) The control method according to Claim 15, further comprising a control step of inhibiting activation of a print control module for the version information that is not selected in said selection step.
17. (previously presented) The control method according to Claim 15, further comprising:
 - an identification step of identifying a first control program that controls the printer not based on a selection result in said selection step and a second control program that controls the printer based on a result in said selection step; and
 - an activation control step of performing control such that the first control program is activated when said identification step recognizes that the first control program exists.
18. (previously presented) The control method according to Claim 15, wherein said setting step recognizes that the print control module can control a printer among printers supported by the print control module when a database file that stores control conditions and control variables for the printer exists.
19. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing thereon an executable program that can be executed in an information processing apparatus that has multiple having a

plurality of print control programs modules, including first and second print control modules, for performing image processing and control processing corresponding to printer functions, each print control module supporting a plurality of types of printers, and further having a management table that contains identification information of the first print control module, version information of the first print control module, and printer type information on printers supported by the first print control module, said storage medium storing an executable program for causing said information processing apparatus to execute:

a first obtaining step of obtaining, from a first print control module, version information on a version of the first print control module and printer type information on a printer type supported by the first print control module;

a second an obtaining step of obtaining, from [[a]] the second print control module, version information on a version of the second print control module and printer type information on a printer type printers supported by the second print control module;

a recording an updating step of updating the management table by recording identification information of the second print control module, and the version information and the printer type information obtained by said obtaining step in the management table, if at least one printer type of the printer type information for the second print control module obtained by said obtaining step is identical to at least one printer type of the printer type information for the first print control module contained in the management table and if the version information of the second print control module obtained by said obtaining step is newer than the version information of the first print control module contained in the management table; ; if the printer type information obtained by said first and second obtaining steps are identical to each other;

recording the version information of the first print control module in correspondence with the printer type information as correspondence information if the version of the first print control module is newer than the version of the second print control module, and recording the version information of the second print control module in correspondence with the printer type information as correspondence information if the version of the second print control module is newer than the version of the first print control module;

a recognition step of recognizing printer type information on a printer type of a certain printer;

a selection step of automatically selecting the version information recorded one of the first and second print control modules in correspondence with the printer type information recognized by said recognition step by referring to the management table updated by said updating step correspondence information recorded by said recording step; and

an execution step of executing one of the first and second the print control modules for the version information module selected by said selection step.

20. (withdrawn) A management method for managing device drivers in an information processing apparatus connectable to a peripheral device, comprising:

an obtaining step of obtaining version information for device drivers in the information processing apparatus and information on peripheral devices that can be controlled by the device drivers;

a recognition step of recognizing unnecessary device drivers among possibly multiple versions of device drivers that reside in the storage device of the information processing

apparatus and correspond to a particular peripheral device, using the version information for the device drivers and information on peripheral devices controllable by the device drivers obtained in said obtaining step; and

a deletion control step of controlling deletion of device drivers that have been recognized as unnecessary by said recognition means.

21. (withdrawn) The management method according to Claim 20, wherein said recognition step comprises an identification procedure for identifying a peripheral device and a determination procedure for determining that the newest version of device driver is not unnecessary among device drivers capable of controlling the peripheral device identified in said identification procedure, and repeats processing in said determination procedure for device drivers that support the peripheral device identified in said identification procedure.

22. (withdrawn) The management method according to Claim 21, wherein in said recognition step, information on peripheral devices and device drivers is managed as table data and unnecessary device drivers are determined from the table data.

23. (withdrawn) The management method according to Claim 20, wherein after newly adding a device driver to the information processing apparatus, said obtaining step, said recognition step, and said deletion step are executed.

24. (withdrawn) An information processing apparatus that can be connected to a peripheral

device and can manage device drivers, comprising:

obtaining means for obtaining version information for device drivers in the information processing apparatus and information on peripheral devices that can be controlled by the device drivers;

recognition means for recognizing unnecessary device drivers among possibly multiple versions of device drivers that reside in the storage device of the information processing apparatus and correspond to a particular peripheral device, using the version information for the device drivers and information on peripheral devices controllable by the device drivers obtained by said obtaining means; and

deletion control means for controlling deletion of device drivers that have been recognized as unnecessary by said recognition means.

25. (withdrawn) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein said recognition means recognizes the newest version of device driver as not unnecessary among device drivers that can control a particular peripheral device.

26. (withdrawn) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 25, wherein in said recognition step, information on peripheral devices and device drivers is managed as table data and unnecessary device drivers are determined from the table data.

27. (withdrawn) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein after newly adding a device driver to the information processing apparatus, said obtaining means, said

recognition means, and said deletion means are run.

28. (withdrawn) A computer-readable storage medium storing a control program to be executed that can manage device drivers in an information processing apparatus connectable to a peripheral device, said medium storing a control program causing the information processing apparatus to execute:

an obtaining step of obtaining version information for device drivers in the information processing apparatus and information on peripheral devices that can be controlled by the device drivers;

a recognition step of recognizing unnecessary device drivers among possibly multiple versions of device drivers that reside in the storage device of the information processing apparatus and correspond to a particular peripheral device, using the version information for the device drivers and information on peripheral devices controllable by the device drivers obtained in said obtaining step; and

a deletion control step of controlling deletion of device drivers that have been recognized as unnecessary by said recognition means.